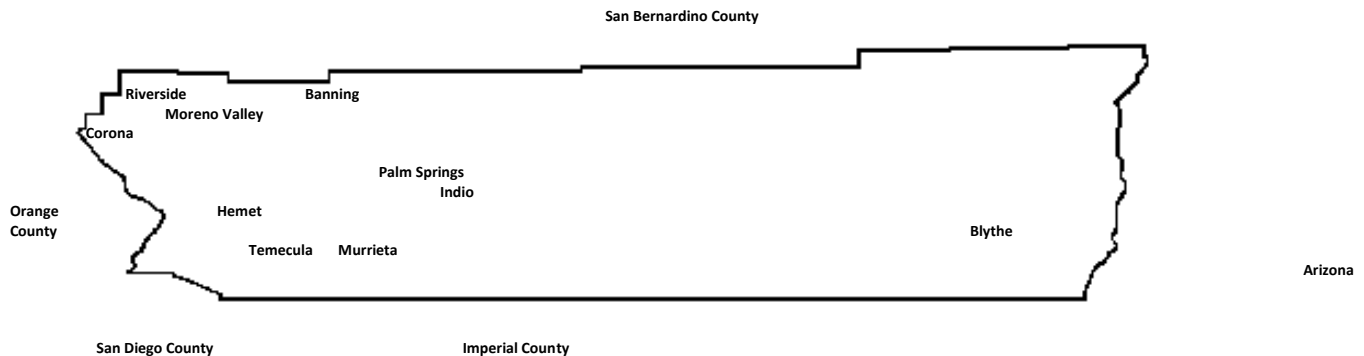




SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE “FAST FACTS”

Riverside County Superior Court

- The Riverside Superior Court has 15 courthouses, as far as 185 miles apart, and spread over 7,300 square miles in three regions, to serve Riverside County’s 2,226,552 citizens.



- The court’s current compliment of 76 judicial officers is comprised of 62 judges and 14 commissioners, although four of the judgeships are currently vacant. Since 2008, the court has reduced its workforce by 256 positions – or 22% - due to severe budget reductions.

Caseload Data

- In calendar year 2012, the court had 447,593 filings of all types, including: 16,376 felonies; 39,799 misdemeanors; 7,501 unlimited civil cases; 38,396 limited civil cases, including 14,804 unlawful detainers; 33,504 family law petitions; 3,087 juvenile dependency cases; 4,043 juvenile delinquency cases; and 289,621 infractions. According to the Judicial Council of California 2013 Court Statistics Report, Riverside County Superior Court had 5,718 filings per judicial position, the fourth highest number amongst the state’s 58 counties.
- In fiscal year 2010-11, the court tried 786 jury trials of all types, an average of 10.3 jury trials per judicial position.
- Due to the economic downturn, the court has seen filing spikes in a number of specific case types over the last several years, including unlawful detainers (evictions), limited civil cases, and family law cases.

Resource Needs

- According to the Judicial Council’s 2012 update of the Judicial Needs Assessment, Riverside County Superior Court has a verified need for 138 judges. With only 76 judicial officers, the court needs an additional 62 judges to provide appropriate access to justice for Riverside County residents. Several years ago, AB 159 authorized an additional seven judgeships, effective June 2008. But none of those positions have been funded. Due to state budget constraints these appointments were initially delayed until July 1, 2009, and then have again been delayed through every budget cycle since.

- Riverside County has seen a 44 percent increase in its population since 2000. Its population more than doubled between 1989 (1,057,200 citizens) and 2012 (2,226,552 citizens). During that same time, the number of judicial positions has increased by only 31 percent since 1989. Case filings have increased from 358,782 in 1993, to 447,593 in 2012, an increase of 25 percent.
- Riverside's ratio of judicial positions per 100,000 of population is 3.5. Statewide the average is 5.2 judicial officers per 100,000 residents.
- According to a study performed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Riverside Superior Court should have 1,354 non-judicial employees in order to process the workload. With only 912 current employees due to ongoing reductions, the court is understaffed by approximately 33% percent.

Budget

The final budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14 was approved by the Legislature on June 14, 2013. There was some good news for the judicial branch. The budget gives the trial courts \$60,000,000 in restored funding which results in approximately \$3,800,000 for the Riverside Superior Court. This amount, along with an allocation funding adjustment made within the branch, means a total of approximately \$5,300,000 added to the court's operating budget in the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2013. While this is definitely positive news for the court system, it unfortunately represents only 25 percent of the more than \$20 million overall annual reduction to our court during the past several years. Since the restoration is not enough, additional staff reductions affecting every division in the court are still necessary. This will involve positions in management, administration, operations, legal, human resources and information technology.

Effects of Previous and Current Reductions on Public Service

- The Riverside Superior Court been forced to close 3 courthouses, 14 courtrooms and to consolidate 3 more, reducing services for the public in criminal, civil and juvenile cases. Community court matters, such as traffic, small claims and limited civil cases were forced to move from the Temecula Court to the Southwest Justice Center, promoting long lines and increased service wait times. The Blythe Court also recently reduced its services to only three days per week. The public is seeing increased wait times for certain hearings, backlogs in case processing and minute orders, and delayed courtroom proceedings on a daily basis. Specifically, severe case and document backlogs are occurring in the following areas:
 - Family law judgments
 - State prison reporting
 - Civil court default judgment
 - Probation transfer cases
 - Fee waiver requests
 - Probate orders
- Since 2008, the court has reduced its workforce, either through layoffs, attrition or unfilled vacancies, by 256 positions. This includes critical positions such as mediators, court reporters, courtroom assistants, and clerical staff. This amounts to a 22% reduction in staffing levels.
- Court-wide furloughs in FY 09/10.

Efficiencies Implemented

- Extensive ways to conduct business online, including making payments from various retail locations such as grocery, discount, and convenience stores who offer CheckFreePay services (similar to MoneyGram). In addition, court trials can be scheduled, traffic school requested, motion dates reserved, and copy requests made all from the convenience of a computer. Riverside court customers can set up fax filing accounts and conduct name searches online.
- Persons seeking a domestic violence restraining order no longer need to come to the courthouse. They are able to file online from their own home, or if they have fled their home, there are a number of "safe havens" – local organizations such as law enforcement agencies, churches, and hospitals that are partnering with the court – in which to file.
- Self-Help services have been expanded and many customers utilize the services online. More than one million customers accessed the Riverside Superior Court Self-Help Services web site last year. These services reduce the need for customers to travel distances to access court services and also reduce the need for lobby space in our new courthouses.

It is important to note that despite these improvements, without adequate funding and available reserves, the court will not be able to continue to implement efficiencies or improve services to the public. In contrast, public services will suffer and justice will be delayed.